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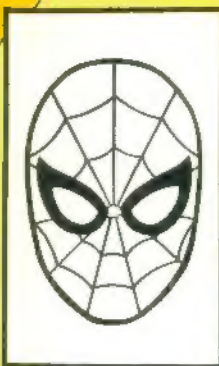
APPROVED
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the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

PART 1 OF 2

**THE
ORDEAL
BEGINS..
BUT WHO
WILL
SURVIVE..**

**..SPIDER-MAN
OR
THE
PUMA?!**



Sal Buscema

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDRFUL WEB SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

"ORDEAL"

MY NAME
IS PETER
PARKER.

SOME PEOPLE
KNOW ME AS
SPIDER-MAN.

I LIVE IN
NEW YORK
CITY.

MY WIFE
IS NAMED
MARY JANE.

THOSE
ARE
FACTS.

THOSE ARE
REALITY.

THIS IS
SOME KIND OF
DREAM.

A DREAM BROUGHT
TO YOU BY...

GERRY CONWAY
SCRIPT

SAL BUSCEMA
ART

RICK PARKER
LETTERS

BOB SHAREN
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THE TEMPERATURE IN THIS NEW MEXICO CLIFF CAVE MUST BE CLOSE TO 120 DEGREES.

NO WONDER PRE-HEART'S TRIBES-
MEN CALL IT A
SWEAT LODGE.

... LISTENING TO THE CHANTS
OF THE OLD MEN ON THE LEDGES
AROUND US...



HOW LONG HAVE
I BEEN HERE?

CAN'T
REMEMBER.

SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOREVER,
WATCHING FIREHEART ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE
CAMPFIRE THAT SEPARATES US...

... SMELLING THE SWEET
SMOKE OF THE MEDICINE
HERBS THAT FIREHEART'S
UNCLE KEEPS SPRINKLING IN
THE FLAMES.

THE CLAY PAINT
ON MY FACE FEELS
STICKY.

I WONDER IF
FIREHEART'S
FACE FEELS
STICKY, TOO.



OH, YEAH?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT PLENTY TO SAY WHEN YOU USE THE DAILY BUGLE AS YOUR MOUTHPIECE.

YOU'VE PLASTERED MY MUG OVER HALF THE BILLBOARDS IN NEW YORK--
-- TRYING TO MAKE ME SOME KIND OF LOCAL HERO--

-- AND IT'S GOT TO STOP

HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

DON'T TOUCH ME.



DON'T EVER TOUCH ME!

WHOA!

SOMETIMES I FORGET:

FIREHEART MAY DRESS LIKE DONALD TRUMP--

-- BUT UNDERNEATH THAT ARMANI SUIT, HE'S GOT THE WILD HEART OF A CAT--

-- NOT TO MENTION A CAT'S REFLEXES!



I WONDER
WHAT HE'LL
SEE.



WHY'D YOU
WANT TO MEET
WITH ME,
FIREHEART?



IF YOU THINK YOU CAN
BUY ME OUT OF MY NEW
PUBLISHING OPERATION--



-- THE WAY YOU BOUGHT ME
OUT OF THE DAILY BUGLE--

-- YOU'LL FIND I
WON'T BE SO EASY
TO BACK-STAB
THE SECOND TIME
AROUND.

I
DEALT WITH
YOU FAIRLY,
JAMESON.



THE DAILY BUGLE IS A PUBLIC CORPORATION.
YOU OWN 40% OF THE OUTSTANDING COMMON
STOCK. I BOUGHT 57% AND TOOK CONTROL.

THESE
THINGS
ARE DONE
ALL THE
TIME.



NOT TO J. JONAH
JAMESON, THEY'RE
NOT.

PUBLISHING IS MY
LIFE, FIREHEART. I'VE
GOT INK IN MY VEINS, AND
WHEN I SLEEP I DREAM IN
SEVENTEEN-POINT TYPE.



YOU'RE A BUSINESSMAN.
ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS
THE BOTTOM LINE--

-- AND THIS WEIRD
PRO-SPIDER-MAN
CAMPAIGN YOU'VE
BEEN PUSHING EVER
SINCE YOU TOOK OVER.



I'LL ASK AGAIN--WHY'D YOU
WANT TO MEET ME?

TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER
I DOUBT YOU'LL REFUSE.



MAYBE I'LL SURPRISE YOU.

WHAT'S THE OFFER?

THIS.

THE 51% OF THE DAILY BUGLE STOCK THAT I BOUGHT.

I'LL SELL IT TO YOU, FREE AND CLEAR, FOR ONE DOLLAR.

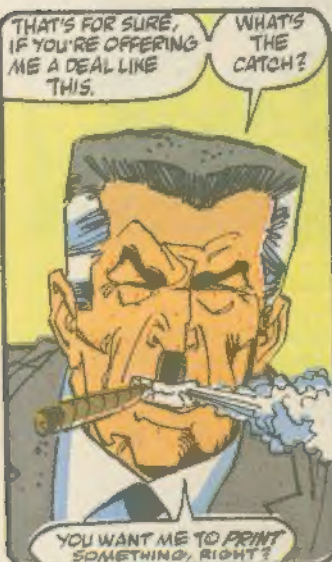
ONE DOLLAR?

ARE YOU CRAZY? THIS STOCK IS WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE...

TO A NEWSPAPERMAN, PERHAPS IT IS.

BUT AS YOU INDICATED SO CLEARLY, JONAH, I AM NOT A NEWSPAPERMAN.

IN FACT, I AM NOT EVEN A BUSINESSMAN.



THAT'S FOR SURE, IF YOU'RE OFFERING ME A DEAL LIKE THIS.

WHAT'S THE CATCH?

YOU WANT ME TO PRINT SOMETHING, RIGHT?



CORRECT. AN OBITUARY.

FOR EITHER ME... OR SPIDER-MAN.





JUST LIKE ME.

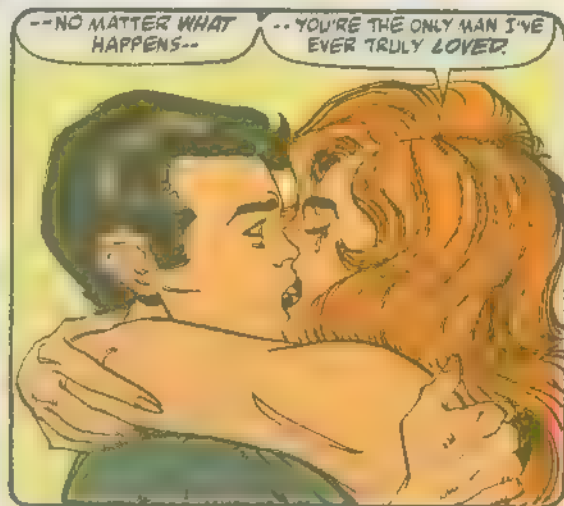
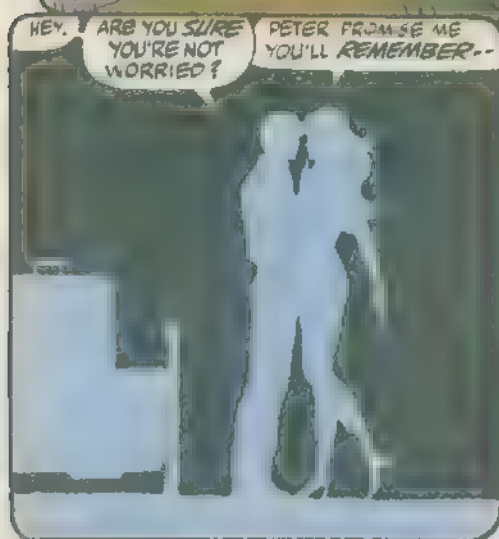
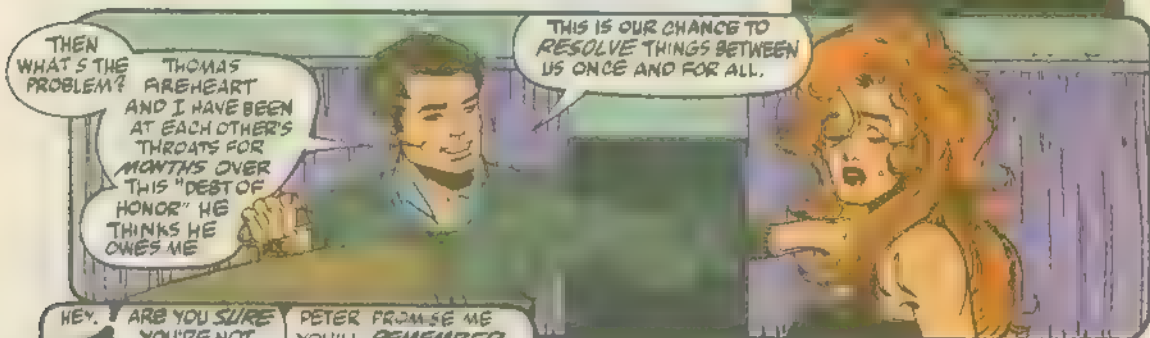


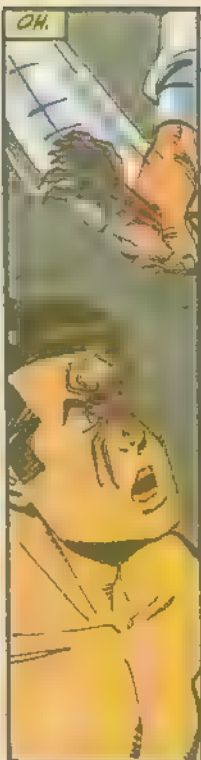
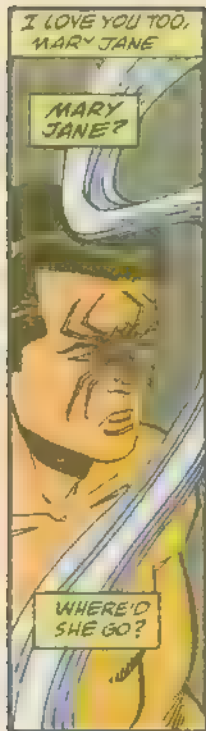
SO HOT IN HERE.



YEAH, AND
SMOKY
TOO.







SOMEHOW, I'VE GOTTA
WONDER IF YOU WERE
WHAT YOUR ANCESTORS
HAD IN MIND.

YOU YE ALWAYS
LIVED IN TWO
WORLDS!

THE WORLD OF THOMAS
FIREHEART, NATIVE
AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIST...

.. AND THE WORLD
OF PUMA, HUNTER
OF THE NIGHT,
MERCENARY
ASSASSIN-FOR-
HIRE

AS SPIDER-MAN,
I CROSSED
PATHS WITH
PUMA ONE
TOO MANY
TIMES--

-- BUT IT WAS
THOMAS
FIREHEART
WHO WANTED
TO REPAY THE
DEBT OF HONOR
YOU THINK YOU
OWE ME.

WHICH IS
THE REAL
YOU I
WONDER?

THOMAS FIREHEART,
MAN OF HONOR?

OR PUMA,
HUNTER
OF MEN?

WHY DID YOU
BRING US
HERE?

WHAT WAS IT YOU
TOLD YOUR UNCLE,
THE SHAMAN,
WHEN WE
ARRIVED AT THE
HARTSDALE AIRPORT?

THANK YOU FOR
MEETING US, UNCLE
AS I TOLD YOU WHEN
I CALLED--

--MY LIFE HAS
FALLEN OUT
OF BALANCE--

-- AND I MUST RESTORE
THAT BALANCE, WITH
HONOR

YOU SPEAK
OF HONOR--

--WHO HAS
ABANDONED
ALL HONOR?

WHERE IS
YOUR SHAME,
NEPHEW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HOW HAVE I ABANDONED
MY HONOR?

NEPHEW THE POWER THAT IS YOURS
BY BIRTH SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEDICATED
TO THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PEOPLE.

INSTEAD YOU HAVE
SQUANDERED YOUR
HERITAGE.

HOW HAVE
I SQUANDERED
MY HERITAGE?

FIREHEART INDUSTRIES
BRINGS A FORTUNE TO
THE TRIBE...

MONEY IS
THE LEAST
OF THINGS.

A MAN'S
HONOR IS
EVERYTHING.

BY HIRING YOURSELF AS AN ASSASSIN TO THE
HIGHEST BIDDER, YOU HAVE BECOME A TOOL
OF THE WHITE MAN.

I DISAGREE.
BUT THAT ISN'T
THE POINT.

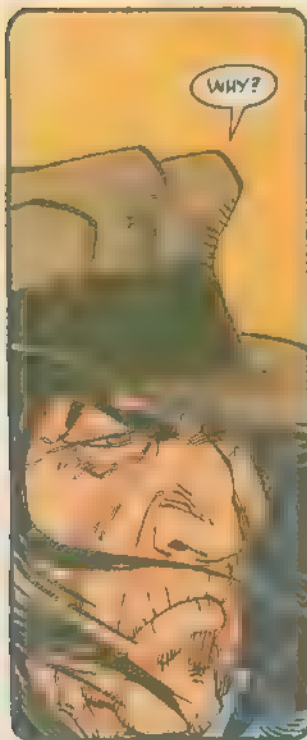
THEN WHAT
IS THE POINT,
NEPHEW? WHY DID
YOU COME HERE?

MANY MONTHS AGO, I MISJUDGED THIS MAN.
I ATTACKED HIS HONOR IN PUBLIC, AND I WAS
WRONG.

I TRIED TO MAKE AMENDS. I
BOUGHT A NEWSPAPER, AND
SOUGHT TO RESTORE HIS
REPUTATION--

--YET TIME AND AGAIN,
I FIND MYSELF IN HIS
DEBT.

THIS MUST
END.





I'VE BEEN DAY-
DREAMING AGAIN

DID FIREHEART
BECOME PUMA,
OR WAS THAT
ANOTHER
DREAM?



I DON'T
KNOW.



I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S
A DREAM--

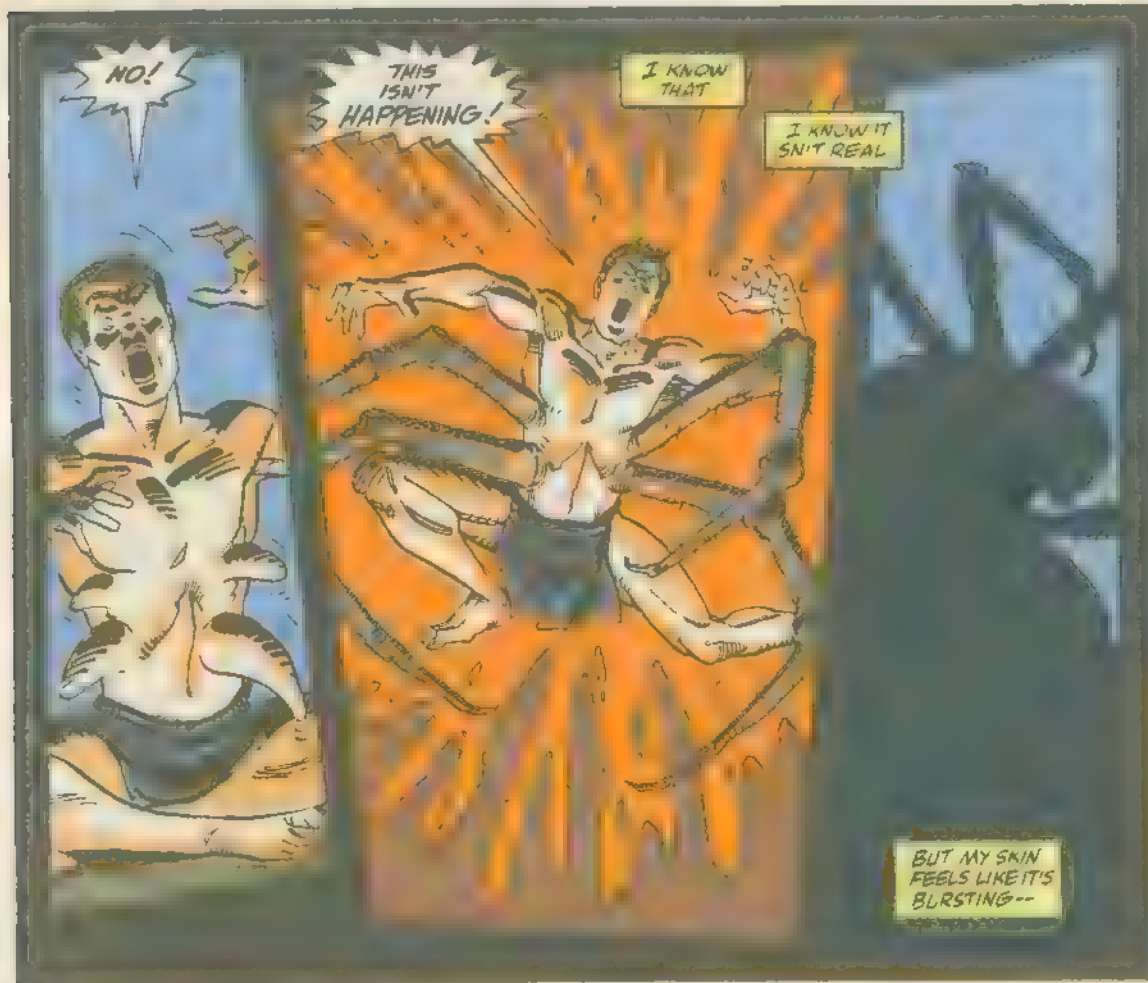


--AND WHAT'S
REALITY--

OH

MY

GOD



NO!

THIS
ISN'T
HAPPENING!

I KNOW
THAT

I KNOW IT
SN'T REAL

BUT MY SKIN
FEELS LIKE IT'S
BURSTING--

-- AS SOMETHING HORRIBLE
INSIDE ME STRUGGLES TO
GET OUT.

I GUESS THOMAS
FIREHEART ISN'T THE
ONLY ONE HERE WITH
A DEMON INSIDE
HIM.

IS THIS
WHAT I
AM?

IS THIS
WHAT I
DO?

BECAUSE I KNOW.

NO!

HAVE I TRAPPED THE
PEOPLE OF MY LIFE IN
A WEB OF DESTRUCTION
WITH ME AT THE CENTER,
FEEDING ON THEIR PAIN?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.

I DON'T WANT
TO BELIEVE IT.

.. IN SOME SMALL
MEASURE .

I'M NOT A
MONSTER!

IT'S TRUE

I'M NOT



EVERY MAN
HAS A MONSTER
INSIDE HIM,
PETER PARKER

IF A MAN IS TO
LIVE WITH HONOR
HE MUST CONFRONT
THE MONSTER
WITHIN--



-- AND THEN HE
MUST ANSWER THE
ETERNAL QUESTION.



THE MONSTER
OR THE MAN?



MORE MAGIC
SHAMAN DUST

MORE
MAGIC
SMOKE.



MORE WAKING
NIGHTMARES.

THIS IS JUST
TOO BIZARRE

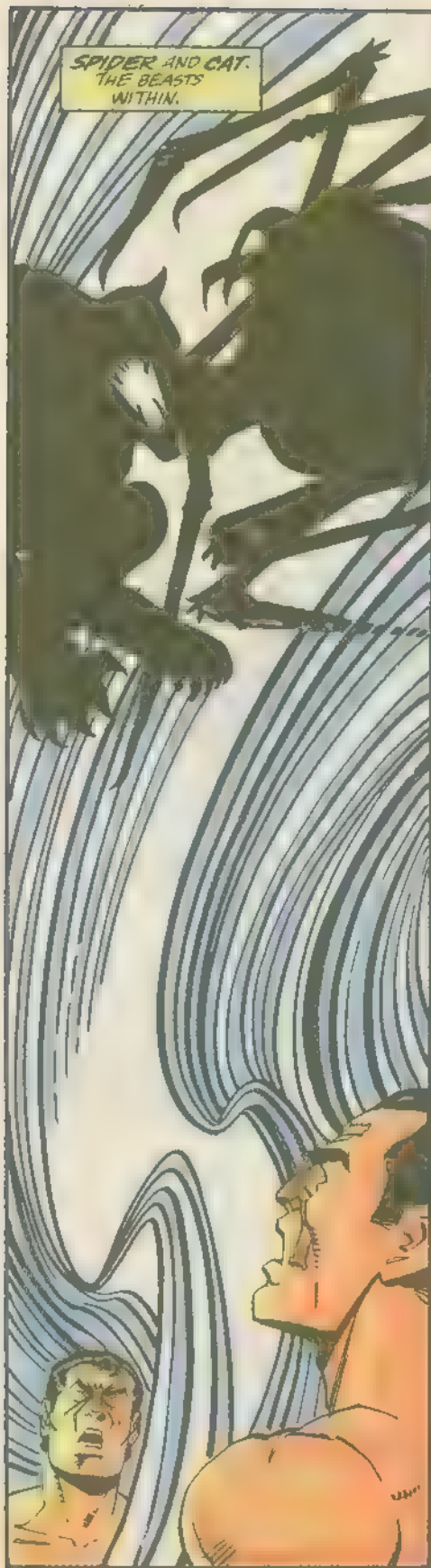
DEMONS
LEAP FROM
THE FLAMES



I SEE MYSELF-- I
SEE MY MONSTER.



AND PREHEART--
DOES HE SEE HIS?



SPIDER AND CAT.
THE BEASTS
WITHIN.

NOW THE OLD
MAN'S CHANTING
SEEMS TO FADE
AWAY

THE NIGHT IS FULL OF
SMOKE AND DARKNESS--

-- AND IN THAT
SMOKE AND
DARKNESS--

-- OUR
MONSTERS
ATTACK!



I CAN'T HEAR
HIM ANYMORE



WHAT WAS IT THE SHAMAN SAID?

"IF A MAN IS TO LIVE WITH HONOR--



"HE MUST CONFRONT THE MONSTER WITHIN--

"-- AND HE MUST ANSWER THE ETERNAL QUESTION:



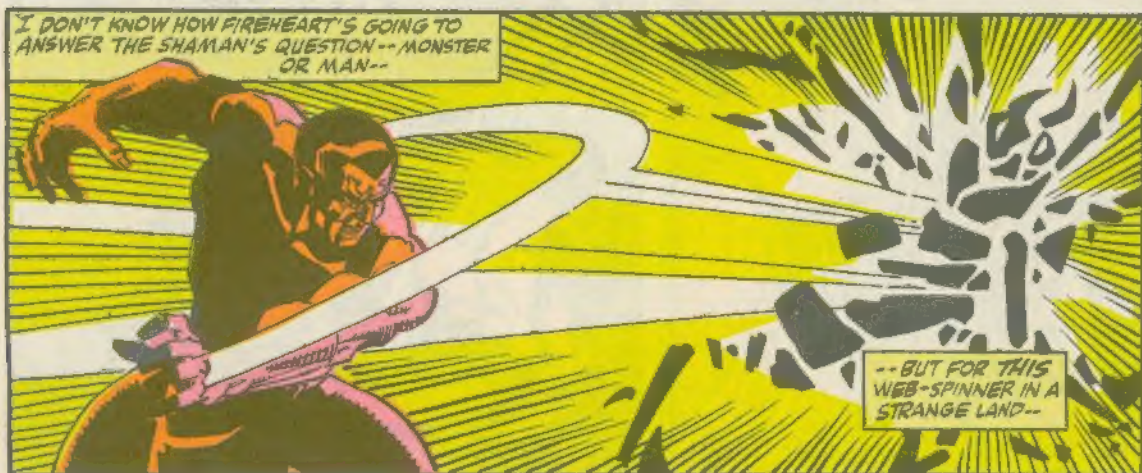
"WHO SHALL RULE?

"THE MONSTER--

"-- OR THE MAN?"

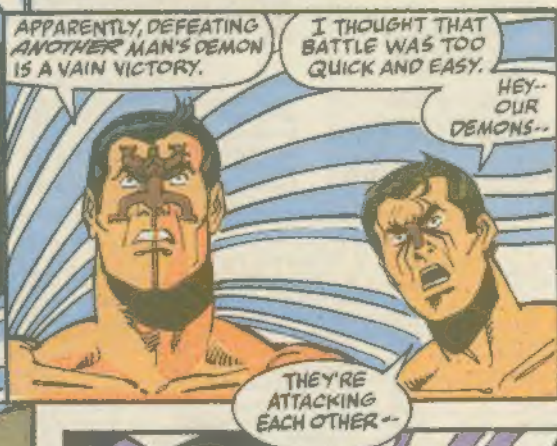
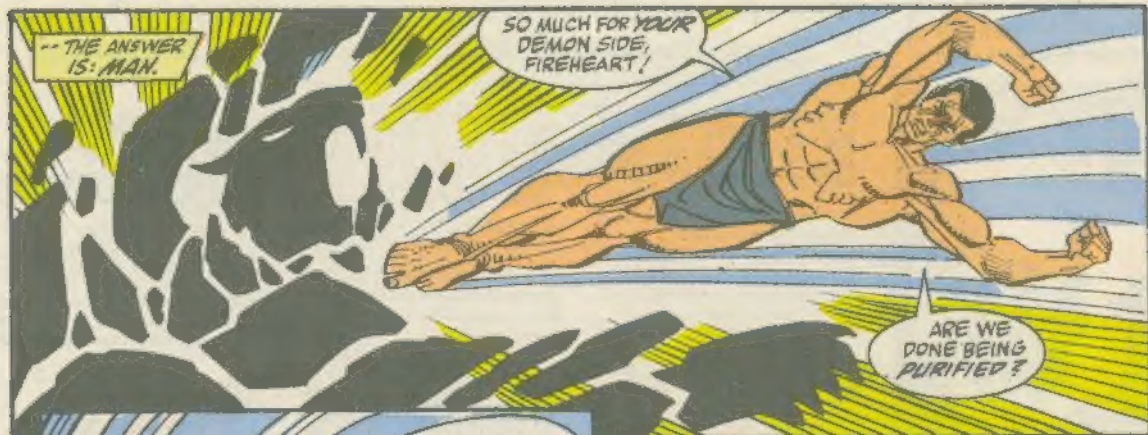


MAYBE FIREHEART AND I HAVE TO CONFRONT EACH OTHER'S MONSTERS, AS WELL AS OUR OWN.



I DON'T KNOW HOW FIREHEART'S GOING TO ANSWER THE SHAMAN'S QUESTION-- MONSTER OR MAN--

-- BUT FOR THIS WEB-SPINNER IN A STRANGE LAND--



-- THEY LOCK IN A
DEADLY EMBRACE--



-- AND FOR THE
FIRST TIME--

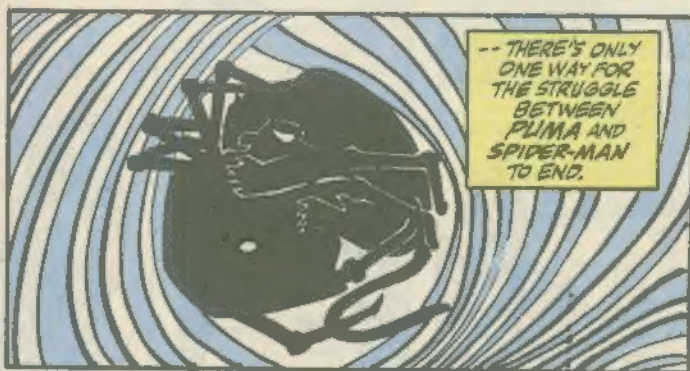
-- I BEGIN TO
UNDERSTAND--



-- THAT MAYBE,
JUST MAYBE--



-- THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY FOR
THE STRUGGLE
BETWEEN
PUMA AND
SPIDER-MAN
TO END.



THEN THE
SMOKE
FILLS MY
EYES.



AND I HEAR FIRE-
HEART'S BREATHING
GROW RAGGED
LIKE MINE.



THE NEXT THING I KNOW,
THERE'S A BREEZE
BLOWING, AND WE'RE
OUTSIDE.

THE SMOKE BEGINS
TO CLEAR.

THERE WAS
SOMETHING I
UNDERSTOOD
BACK IN THE
SWEAT LODGE...

...SOMETHING
I REALIZED, AS
IF IN A DREAM...

...BUT WHATEVER
IT IS, I'VE
FORGOTTEN
IT NOW.



YOU HAVE
LOOKED
WITHIN
YOUR
SOULS.

YOU
ARE
PURIFIED.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT THE
CONFLICT
BETWEEN YOU
CAN ONLY END
IN DEATH?
WILL YOU CONTINUE
THIS CONFLICT TO ITS
FATAL CONCLUSION--



--OR END
IT NOW,
IN PEACE?



THAT'S UP TO PUMA.
IT'S HIS HONOR.

AND HONOR
DEMANDS BLOOD.

THEN LET IT
BE WAR--TO THE
DEATH!

NEXT THE FINAL
SHOWDOWN!